

# heartbeat

MERCY HOUSE NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2006

Dear Friends of Mercy House,

Greetings and blessings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Spring is here in full bloom. It reminds me of new life and new beginnings in Christ.

First of all I would like to say how happy I am to accept the directorship of Mercy House again. Mercy House has been deep in my heart since the day the Lord placed the vision in my heart in 1994. Since that time we have seen God do many miracles in lives. Some of those miracles you will read in this newsletter today. And He has done so many more. I know His heart toward all His children is to work mightily to redeem us out of every sorrow and every poor choice when we turn our hearts to Him.

That is really the message we send to every young woman who comes. She needs to know and understand that yes, she made a poor choice. But she also needs the message that God has provided a way of redemption. First of all, for the root problem we *all* face. That we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and that God has a plan of redemption.

That plan is Jesus and no other. ***That is and will always be our central message.*** Secondly, she needs to know and understand that one bad choice does not have to lead to another. Every baby has the right to live and be nurtured as God designed. She must understand that “choice” is not just about her, it’s also about the life within her. And God is ready to redeem that life as well.

Whether she parents her baby or makes the loving choice to place her child for adoption, we want to be there to help her through those decisions.

Now we are actively working toward acquiring another home. Our hope is to either purchase or lease a home by this fall. We are also actively recruiting shepherding

homes. Families that will open their home to a young woman for 6-7 months and love and nurture her through her pregnancy and immediate postpartum period. We are still providing our other services as well to women who do not need residential services but would benefit from classes, counseling, and discipleship.

First, I would like to thank all of our partners who have supported us so faithfully through the years. ***We could not function without your generosity and prayer.*** I would also like to sincerely ask all those who at one point supported Mercy House to consider rejoining us as we move into our next phase. We need to establish a strong financial base of support in order to serve a greater number of women than we have in the past.

Would you please pray about your commitment to this ministry? I would be happy to talk with you if you have any questions. And I can assure you that every dollar you give will be used for the purpose it was given, to save lives and nurture healthy choices. We welcome your input and your partnership and pray that God will place His love in your hearts for the ministry of Mercy House.

***May you be richly blessed as you serve Him and as you give to His Kingdom!***

In His Mercy,  
Susan



# where they are now?

## Bridgette's Story

When I was 17 years old, I was vulnerable, hopeless, confused and pregnant. I was in a situation where the only way I would be able to keep and care for my baby was if I left my old life, my old ways of living, and got help. I knew the only way this could work was with God in my life.

I looked for a maternity home for months. None seemed appealing to me, but when I read about Mercy House, it stood out above all others. Within days, I had an interview and a tour of the Mercy House home. The moment I met the director, houseparents and the other girls living there, I felt a peace I had never felt before. It was then I knew I would be okay.

Sometimes I feel like I have had such an advantage over every first time mom, because I became a mother at the Mercy House. I was prepared physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually for the birth of my son. The tremendous support and friendship I received from the supporting church, my mentors, the staff and the midwife was such a blessing to me. The houseparents taught me how to function as a family; immediately I felt like a part of the family.

The birth of my son was a miracle. Everything went naturally and smooth. The calming atmosphere the midwife gave me with a natural birth made my birthing experience very spiritual for me. I know that God was there with me. After my son was born, the staff did an excellent job helping me, without interfering with how I wanted to take care of my son.

While at the Mercy House, there was never a need I had that wasn't met. They even referred me to a mother's home to go to after I had my son.

Since I've left the Mercy House, I got married and have had another son. I've recently gotten my CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant). I have grown strong in God. I mentor at a crisis pregnancy center and occasionally preach to the youth at a few churches in my area.

When I look back at my experience with the Mercy House, I realize that I would not be where I am and who I am today if I had not gone into this ministry. This ministry has tremendously changed and helped me. I thank my God for this ministry and the people who make it possible.

March 2006



*Susan,*

*I really meant what I said about the Ministry changing me. I really would not be who I am now without it and everyone who helped me and even befriended me.*

*It is really such a miracle what God can turn into a blessing; from a bad situation and bad choices. It has ultimately shown me that no matter what, there is always something good to come out of everything, and that there is always forgiveness and hope.*

*Also, I just really love the church I attended there. Even now as I am in Arizona and over 2000 miles away, I still feel like it is my home church. I really miss everyone.*

*Susan, keep this ministry together. I hope you guys can reach as many hopeless pregnant girls as God allows, and show them that there is hope just like you did for me. I desire to someday give back to Mercy House at least a little of what you all gave to me.*

*Keep in touch! God is good. And always remember if you ever feel discouraged about Mercy House; you really made a difference in my life. And Susan, I do thank God for you! Thanks!*

*Love Ya,  
Bridgette*

# where they are now?

## Codi's Story

Since I left the Mercy House, Jelani and I have moved into a two bedroom apartment in Arlington. Jelani is doing so well, he just turned 3 years old in January. I am currently working as a substitute teacher and I also have a work-study position at the UTA library. I am a full-time sophomore with a 3.75 GPA and just got accepted into McNair Scholars Program. I am also a member of the English Honor Society. I have also been fortunate enough to buy two cars: a 2000 Kia Sephia and a 2005 Chevrolet Cavalier. I attend Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington. I am a member of the Young Adult Bible Study there.

If someone asked me my motivation, it would have to be the Almighty first, because I can't imagine having any of the blessings I have without Him by my side. Just as important is my son, Jelani. Since the first day I saw him, I had a new meaning for my life. He is everything anyone could hope for and more! Everything I do, I do

to make a better life for us as a family. As you already know, I don't have family support from my mother, and my father and grandparents are deceased. But I have a message for all the young girls out there who think that they can't make things better for themselves: Trust in the Lord! At one point, I had no clue how I would be able to take care of myself and a child without anyone to help me. But I was wrong. There is someone to help me and He is always there for anyone who will have the faith to believe in Him. I am a living testimony to that. I cannot express the gratitude I have for Mercy House and the people who support it. I don't know where I would be now if not for the help of the houseparents and church guidance. It's taken a lot of hard work and dedication, but everytime I look at my son, I know that it's worth it.

February 2006

## from jennifer's desk

My name is Jennifer Brown and I currently serve as the Family Worker for Mercy House Ministries. I began in 2001 as a mentor and later as an assistant houseparent. Now as my journey for my Bachelor's degree in Social Work comes to an end, it is with great joy that God would call me to serve in this way.

I was drawn to Mercy House because of its message of God's love, compassion and forgiveness to young women who, for many, have come from destructive environments. For some, they never lived in a healthy home and as a result, positive self-concept and healthy decision making were not modeled to them. Now as they begin to think of their unborn child, they are seeking out love, support and a real plan for their future.

In the middle of it all, Mercy House is the strong tower of God's unfailing grace and never ending support. Mercy House is the vessel that God uses in these women's lives to free them

from their shame and to show them His eternal purpose for their lives.

My goal as the Family Worker is to assist these women in making plans

for their future while leading them into a healthy relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. As the body of Christ unites in this battle against feelings of loneliness, depression, hurt and shame, these women's wounds begin to heal. More importantly, they come into relationship with the One who sets them up for a life full of joy, goodness and abundance.

In awe of His glory,  
Jennifer L Brown, Family Worker  
Mercy House Ministries



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*For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.*  
*Jeremiah 29:11*

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